1. **What are the key factors for family assessment?**

**Ans:** Comprehensive family assessment is the ongoing practice of informing decision-making by identifying, considering, and weighing factors that impact children, youth, and their families. Assessment occurs from the time children and families come to the attention of the child welfare system or before and continues to case closure. Many factors, including the child’s safety, the risk of future maltreatment, parental protective capacity, and child well-being must be accurately assessed on an ongoing basis. Assessment provides the foundation for assisting children, youth, and families at a number of critical points, including:

- When families are presented with new challenges
- When there are safety concerns for the child or other family members
- When decisions must be made about the need for services or the appropriate type and intensity of interventions or supports
- When reviewing service effectiveness and case progress

Comprehensive family assessment is guided by principles of family-centered, culturally competent practice. Whenever possible, families are seen as providing the best care and protection for their children, family represents the focus of all work, and family members are actively involved in the development and implementation of any plan. The family’s culture, race, ethnicity, values, and customs must be respected and carefully considered.

- Identification, screening, and assessment of child abuse & neglect
- Safety and risk assessment
- Family-centered assessment
- Needs and strengths - Child
- Needs and strengths - Parents and Caregivers
- Family progress and permanency options
- Cultural issues in family assessment
- Sources for tools, instruments, and measures

2. **Discuss the interview methods used for assessment with couples.**

**Ans:** The interview is an essential assessment strategy for the family counselor. The assessment interview is guided for identify of risk and protective factors and to provide the context for understanding the distress of the family and potential sources of healing. This search is carried out by asking key questions, requesting family members to enact family events, and by observing the family members in action. Thus the interview process includes both a directed conversation and observations of nonverbal behavior. This method helps therapists to enact family interactions. Therapist can collect more information about family roles, communication patterns, rituals and problems. To assess the perceptions of different members of the other family members as actors to reenact the event and show the therapist what they believe actually happens. Role playing may provide a window into the dynamics of the family for therapist. Consequently they are able to assess how the family communicates, how members attract or repel each other, who maintains the power, who gets the attention, how problems begin, and what meaning the family attaches to various interactions.

A couple interview (or joint couple interview, or more broadly conjoint interview, joint interview or dyadic interview) is a method of qualitative research used in the social sciences, where two spouses are interviewed together. Such an interview is typically semi-structured or unstructured. Couple interviews are important in household research, often from a psychological, sociological, anthropological or social geographical perspective, and are also frequently used within health research. A couple interview is a form of joint interviewing (interviews involving two interviewees), the subject of a growing methodological research literature.

There is an ongoing methodological controversy over whether couples should ideally be interviewed together or apart. Bjernholt and Farstad argue that the couple interview should be seen as a distinct form of the qualitative research interview, and argue that the couple interview has several advantages over individual interviews, in particular in "solving the ethical problems of anonymity and consent among interviewees, and [resulting] in the production of rich data, including observational data," and in intra-couple dynamics and the interaction between the informants, as well as with the researcher(s), in the interview situation, which may also reveal controversies and areas of conflict, by providing a reflective space for both partners together, which enables them to challenge as well as to reinforce each other’s accounts. They further argue that the researcher plays an important role, as couple interviews may be seen as an arena of “family display,” using a concept originally proposed by Janet Finch. The opportunity to observe shared storytelling is regarded as a widely documented advantage of joint interviewing.

3. **Describe a case study using marital enrichment techniques.**

**Ans:** Marriage enrichment is a form of primary prevention in the area of human relationships. Begun in an organized way by David and Vera Mace in the mid-twentieth century, its objectives are to promote a mutual commitment to growth in the marital relationship; to develop and agree on a communication style of talking and listening that works for enhancement of the marital relationship; to learn how to use conflict in creative ways that helps, not hinders, the marital relationship, including the sharing of feelings; and to develop and maintain a desire for and the presence of intimacy in the marital relationship, utilizing a variety of positive interaction skills.

Marriage enrichment takes place when couples deem their marriage of primary importance. These couples are intentional about their marital growth and choose to do something about it. Couples who commit to an ongoing marriage enrichment group, through which they can practice quality interactive skills with each other and in the presence of other caring couples, tend to have more successful marriages. The longer the